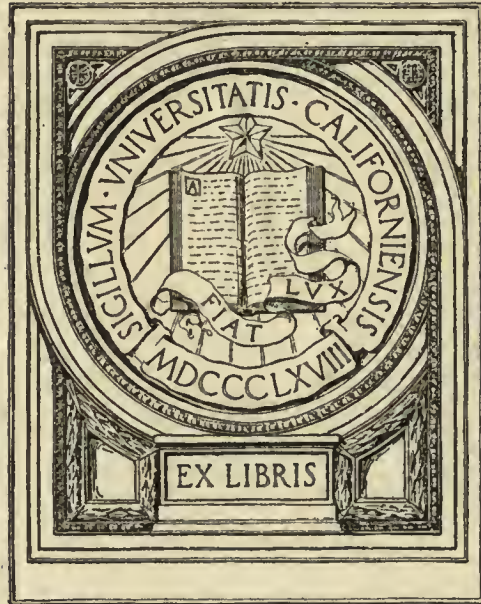




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## Provision for War Cripples in Italy

### I. Organization

The system of care for war cripples in Italy is, in comparison with the other countries, still in its rudimentary stage. The first steps, theoretic discussion and preliminary organization, are still occupying a great deal of attention and actual practical results are only just beginning to be evident. This is very natural, because Italy, on her entrance into the war, had almost no facilities for such work. She had no artificial limb factories, scarcely any cripple homes or system of education for cripples, and very few social organizations competent to undertake it. The whole system had to be built up from the foundations, in contrast to Germany where there was a complete system ready to hand. In building up this new work, there is a distinct effort to make it comprehensive and scientific, by a careful study of the methods of other countries, particularly of France. The Italians are their own most radical critics and are prepared to study the experience of other countries and to apply it as advantageously as possible.

The history of work for war cripples in Italy is that of most other countries. It began in scattered private efforts which were later co-ordinated and brought more or less under government control. The northern industrial provinces were the first to move. Even before Italy entered the war Lombardy had organized a committee, the *Comitato Lombardo per i Soldati Mutilati in Guerra* (Lombard Committee for Soldiers Crippled in War), which worked in connection with the Milan *Istituto dei Rachitici* (Institute for Rachitics) to give orthopedic treatment and trade training to war cripples. The work was done in close cooperation with the military authorities. The Institute was constituted a military reserve hospital, its officers being given military rank; men were sent there

direct from the field hospitals and given their orthopedic treatment under military discipline. After this, if they desired it and the committee found them suitable, they were transferred to a subsidiary convalescent home for trade training, this also under military discipline. The government and the Lombard committee shared the expense of buildings and maintenance. The government paid the committee 3.50 lire a day for each man's board, and the committee allowed the men a small allowance.

The Milan school, which is still the largest and most scientific, became the model for succeeding institutions. The other provinces were much slower in organizing and after the first twelve months of Italy's participation in the war the Milan school was still the only one fairly started.<sup>1</sup> However, committees were formed little by little on the pattern of the Milan committee until, in November, 1917, there were altogether twenty-four, accommodating about twenty per cent. of all the war cripples.<sup>2</sup> A few of these committees had schools actually in operation, others were merely planning them. All the schools were modelled on that at Milan, where training was under military discipline but the choice of training was voluntary.

The committees in each province worked together in a sort of loose affiliation, but a more definite co-ordination was felt to be necessary, so the next step in organization was taken and there was formed a voluntary national association, the *Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati* (Federation of Committees for the Assistance of Blind, Lame and Crippled Soldiers).

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 105.

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 297.

## NATIONAL FEDERATION

The function of the Federation is mainly advisory and the local committees keep their independence and initiative. Their method of organization varies in different provinces. In Lombardy and Sicily, for instance, there is only one committee for the whole province and the work is concentrated in the largest city. In Tuscany and Venetia there is a group of small committees all working in co-ordination and running several small separate schools.

The work of the Federation is to co-ordinate and supervise the work of the local committees and to keep them informed of new developments in the work, and to concern itself with legal measures for the care of war cripples. It publishes a monthly magazine describing the work of local committees and discussing possible new measures.

## NATIONAL BOARD

From the very beginning of the work for war cripples in Italy it was taken for granted that there must be government regulation of the schools and definite financial support. The framing of a suitable bill for this purpose occupied almost a year of discussion. One bill was voted down by Parliament after long consideration but finally, March 25, 1917, there was passed the law providing for the *Opera Nazionale per la Protezione ed Assistenza degli Invalidi della Guerra* (National Board for the protection and Assistance of War Invalids).<sup>3</sup> This law and the supplementary regulations published by the Minister of the Interior in August, 1917,<sup>4</sup> form the basis for all re-educational activities and state the limits of government and private responsibility. The functions of the board are stated to be assistance to war cripples in

1. Medical treatment (in so far as this is not covered by the military authorities).
2. Material relief.
3. Re-education.
4. Placement.
5. Claiming of pensions.

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 66.

<sup>4</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 199-213.

This does not mean that these activities are actually to be taken over by the board. It merely supervises and assists, filling in the gaps wherever necessary. The re-education schools are to remain, as before, under the management of the local committees, but the board is to supervise and inspect, giving charters to new committees and revoking charters of those which do not come up to the standards. It will largely replace the voluntary Federation which has announced its intention of giving up its work as soon as the government board is actually in operation. Owing to the necessary delay in choosing the parliamentary representatives, the board had not up to December, 1917, held its first meeting. Its first provision is, as mentioned above, a government board which shall be the official body supervising and regulating all the work for the war cripples. This board consists of nineteen members. Four are elected by Parliament, two senators and two deputies. The other fifteen are appointed by royal decree on the suggestion of the prime minister, as follows: five ministerial nominees, representing the departments of the Interior, War, Navy, Treasury, and of Industry, Commerce and Labor; two nominees of the surgeon general who shall have special technical qualifications; three nominees of the volunteer associations for the care of war cripples, one from the actual institutions caring for war cripples; four elected by the national war cripples' association.

The board is under the Minister of the Interior. It must render a report to him every year which he in turn must present to Parliament. A yearly appropriation is set aside for it from the budget of the Department of the Interior.

The board has its office in Rome, with the offices of the Ministry of the Interior, its office force being furnished by the government. It is supposed to work in very close connection with the societies and institutions all over the country which are concerned with war cripples and thus to have an authorized representative in every locality. There is criticism of the board by the existing social agencies, to the effect that it may easily become bureaucratic and political, and so be out of touch with the actual needs of the work.

Until the board has fairly started its activities it is not possible to tell how real this danger is. The Federation is in close touch with the prime minister who has the appointment of a majority of the members and has itself been allowed to nominate three of them, so hopes to control this difficulty.

## II. Legal Measures

The law above mentioned, in addition to creating the National Board, fixes the general system for treatment of cripples all over the country. Its regulations are as follows.

Crippled soldiers, after their first surgical treatment are to be sent to military *Centri di cure fisiche ed ortopediche* (centers for physical and orthopedic treatment). These are military reserve hospitals under the army medical department with special facilities for orthopedic treatment. There are nine of them in the country, located in the army corps districts of Turin, Milan, Genoa, Verona, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Palermo. A soldier is in each case to be sent to the center nearest his home or, if that is not possible, to the next nearest.<sup>1</sup>

At the centers the men are to receive functional re-education, massage, and mecano-therapy and to be furnished with a temporary artificial limb at the expense of the government. They are not kept until the stump has assumed its permanent form.<sup>2</sup>

When their cure has so far progressed that they will profit most from re-education, they are dismissed from the orthopedic hospital on *breve licenza* (short leave) and allowed to visit their homes. After the term of leave, generally a month, has expired, those designated by the center as capable of re-education must present themselves, as part of their military duty, at the nearest re-education school. The men excused from this duty are those hopelessly crippled or those who give proof that they do not need re-education or can attend to their own. They are given *licenza straordinaria* (long leave) and may

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 8.

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 203.

remain home until ready for their permanent prosthesis.

The compulsory stay of any man at the school is limited by the law to fifteen days. During that time he is fitted with his permanent prosthesis which is selected for him by the school at the expense of the government. The school also has every opportunity to convince him of the value of re-education. If he consents to training, he remains under military discipline. If he refuses, he receives his discharge from the local military authority.

This combination of voluntary choice and military discipline was already the arrangement adopted by most of the schools. It was admitted by all the workers in the field that the ignorant and usually illiterate Italian peasant would be very difficult to train without the aid of military discipline. But it was also felt that men would not make good subjects for training unless they went into it voluntarily. The main difficulty which the schools had experienced was that of getting information about re-education possibilities distributed through the army, and compulsory stay in the schools was proposed as the simplest way to accomplish this. It will also be an easy method of getting statistics about the cripples as they pass through the schools, whether they remain for re-education or not. The fault found with the measure is that at present the schools have not accommodations to take care of every cripple dismissed from the orthopedic hospital, even for fifteen days. Only twenty per cent. of all cripples in the country are now being re-educated.<sup>3</sup> This fact was pointed out to Parliament by members of the Federation and it was stated that unless the government would be willing to provide additional schools the provision would become a dead letter. The warning was not observed, however, so the schools will be obliged to apply their own judgment in carrying out the law.

### REGULATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

The schools, which are in this way given a semi-official position, are held strictly accountable to the National Board. Any school, before

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 6.

being recognized as fit to receive cripples, must show

1. That it has adequate buildings and equipment.
2. That it is directed by a competent person who must be a doctor or assisted by a doctor.
3. That it is scientifically organized and directed and that it possesses the proper scientific apparatus for functional re-education.
4. That it has a workshop where artificial limbs and appliances can be properly altered and repaired.
5. There must be attached to the staff a re-educated cripple, nominated by the local branch of the national cripple association.

The schools are responsible to the National Board in all matters of re-education and are subject to regular inspection. In matters of hygiene, sanitation, and discipline, they are responsible to the war department which inspects and furnishes disciplinary officers. The schools are expected, under the law, to receive all cripples who apply for re-education but, owing to their present accommodations, this part of the regulations cannot be observed.

When a man is accepted for re-education he remains as a regular member of the army. He may remain at the school for a maximum period of six months. During this time the war department pays the school 3.50 lire a day for his maintenance, pays the man a regular sum, according to his rank<sup>4</sup> (a private has twenty centesimi, four cents, a day), and maintains his family at the same rate as though he were in active service.<sup>5</sup> If his training is not complete at the end of six months, the National Board may retain him longer at its own expense. If he is ready to go sooner, or if he is unruly or unfit for training, the local military commander may discharge him at any time.<sup>6</sup>

Since, at the time the law was passed, there were a great many cripples in Italy already dis-

<sup>4</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 69.

<sup>5</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 210.

<sup>6</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 205-206.

charged from the army without any opportunity for re-education, the law provides that these men also may be accepted at the schools on application. In that case they must submit to the discipline of the school although they are discharged. Their expenses are borne by the National Board instead of the War Department.

As soon as a man has entered the school his trade is decided upon. The decision is made by a committee consisting of the head physician and the director of the school; an inspector from the Department of Industry and Labor or a person delegated by the National Board, due consideration being given to the wishes of the cripple and to the representative of the war cripples attached to the staff. The same committee decides on the man's dismissal from the school when his training is complete. On his dismissal the National Board and the local military authority must be notified.<sup>7</sup>

If a man leaves the school furnished with a certificate that he has satisfactorily completed his re-education, the National Board may give him a money prize. Certificates are to be given only to those men who have done conscientious work and who have become really able to support themselves.<sup>8</sup>

#### ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

The men come to the school furnished with temporary prostheses from the orthopedic center. During their training, if the school thinks advisable any special working prosthesis, it must supply it at its own expense. Before the men leave they are fitted with permanent prostheses which are ordered by the school on models approved by the War Department. No work prostheses are supplied, but only so called aesthetic limbs. Permanent work prostheses must be given by the school at its own expense. The limbs may be made either by the factory attached to the school or by firms authorized by the War Department. Such limbs must be inspected by a commission appointed by the

<sup>7</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 204.

<sup>8</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 207.



Minister of War and including a representative of the National Board. The limbs must be adjusted at the re-education school which is the only agency authorized for this purpose and which must instruct the men in their use and care as part of its duty.

All repairs to the limbs are paid for, not by the War Department, but by the National Board. It is not obliged to pay for repairs caused by a man's own carelessness and must have inspectors to see that the men make good use of their prostheses.

This triple division of the duty of furnishing prostheses has been much criticized by opponents of the law. By it the government pays for temporary and permanent limbs, but only aesthetic ones, the schools pay for working prostheses and the National Board for repairs. It is felt that, besides the complexity of the arrangement, this means inefficiency and injustice. The aesthetic limbs are both expensive and nearly useless so that in giving only these the government has not done its real duty. Members of the Federation feel that for the price the War Department now pays for an aesthetic limb it could provide a really good working prosthesis with attachable hand or foot such as is used in Germany and thus relieve the schools of an unjust obligation. The main idea in having the National Board pay for repairs was that these will be necessary for many years after the close of the war and will be no longer necessarily a War Department duty.

#### RESPONSIBILITY AFTER DISCHARGE

After men are discharged from the schools and from the army the National Board is expected to provide as well as possible for their future. For those who need further medical care because of relapse or developing illness it provides convalescent homes at which it pays for their treatment.<sup>9</sup> For those who have no families to return to and yet need a certain amount of care it pays for board in private families which must render a regular account to the Board.<sup>10</sup> For all men capable of earning their own living it is supposed to find positions. This last is, of course, a rela-

<sup>9</sup> and <sup>10</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 206.

tive matter. The law merely states that the Board must make every effort to place such men and that all public officials, civil service, mines and railways must render every possible assistance. Public employment bureaus subsidized by the state and also provincial and communal employment bureaus are to attend to the placement of war cripples without charge.

All employees in civil service or in charitable institutions who have become war cripples have a right to re-instatement if pronounced physically able to do the work. There is published also a list of civil service positions which will be reserved for war cripples. Men applying for them must have a physician's word that they are able to do the work, and among such men the most eligible will be chosen. In competitive examinations for civil service positions, other things being equal, war cripples will be given precedence.<sup>11</sup>

Private firms are obliged to re-instate their employees crippled in the war if the employees can pass a medical examination proving their fitness for the particular work. The medical examination and the necessary certificate are to be furnished by the National Board, which also arbitrates between the cripple and the employer in case the latter refuses re-instatement without reason.<sup>12</sup>

#### OTHER PROVISIONS

The National Board looks after the interests of cripples in the settling of pensions and in any legal difficulties in which they may become involved and acts as guardian to any who are of unsound mind.

Loans for buying land or establishing themselves in business are made to soldiers on security of pensions.

Accident insurance companies are obliged to insure war cripples on the same terms as any other workmen. They are not allowed to charge a higher premium to stores or factories where war cripples are employed unless the number of these passes a certain proportion. If there is a particularly large number of war cripples in any

<sup>11</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 68.

<sup>12</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 206.

establishment, a slightly higher premium may be agreed upon with the Minister of Industry and Labor.<sup>13</sup>

Pensions are not in any way to be affected by either re-education or employment of war cripples.

The government promises, with the aid of the Ministers of War and of the Navy, to provide as soon as possible for a census of all the war cripples in the country, discharged or still in service.

This law makes the general basis for the care of war cripples fairly definite. There is, of course, much criticism on the ground that it was framed and passed by politicians and not by experts, that its provisions will be immensely slow in coming into operation and that it promises a number of things which cannot be carried out. The bureaucratic nature of the Board, the lack of accommodation among the schools to whom so much responsibility is given, the illogical division of responsibility for artificial limbs, are the principal ones. In relation to the promised census it is also stated that unless it is taken by people with social training it will be purely medical and official and will give little basis for planning the after-life of the cripples. The provisions of the law are still being discussed and amplifications suggested.

### III. Medical Treatment and Artificial Limbs

It will be seen that the general relation of medical treatment to trade training in Italy is that first followed in France and still in England, where training follows treatment, rather than that of Germany where the two are simultaneous. Though the two processes are separate, the agencies responsible for them are not, the National Board and the War Department being both concerned in both processes. Since the successive processes of rehabilitation are the same in all countries, we may take up the work being done in Italy in the usual order, *i. e.*, medical treatment and functional re-education,

<sup>13</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 209.

provision of artificial limbs, trade training, and placement.

Italy is still incompletely equipped with orthopedic hospitals. There are only nine military orthopedic centers in the country, the reserve hospitals at Turin, Milan, Genoa, Verona, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Palermo. Most of these are excellent, particularly the hospital at Milan, furnished with all modern devices, the *Istituto Rizzoli* at Bologna, and the *Clinica Rummo* at Naples. The Red Cross has also equipped an excellent orthopedic hospital, the *Istituto Romiti* at Spezia, and others are being gradually supplied by the volunteer committees.

The interest in scientific care for cripples is very keen: though the subject was not much studied before the war, specialists are doing remarkable work on it now. Italy has followed France in her interest in scientific apparatus for measuring muscular capacity: most of the hospitals are furnished with Professor Amar's machines for this purpose. There is also much use of mecano-therapeutic apparatus for re-education of the stump and much study as to its best treatment. A great deal of this appears still to be theoretical.

Most of the technical journals are just beginning to discuss the value of outdoor exercise and games in functional re-education, a factor which plays such a large part in German therapeutics. This is being tried at Bologna with great success.<sup>1</sup>

The criticism made by experts in the cripple field is that so far much too much money has been spent on elaborate mechanical aids, and that the simple factors of easy work and outdoor play have been neglected.<sup>2</sup> Since functional re-education is such a new subject, it is also stated that at the beginning of the war many men were sent home without any attempt at it, and, therefore, suffered from unnecessary stiffness and from ignorant use of prostheses.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 132.

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 112.

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 36-37.

## ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

The whole problem of artificial limbs, like that of functional re-education, is only beginning to be dealt with in Italy. Before the war such limbs were obtained from Germany and there were almost no facilities for manufacture at home. At the beginning of the war there was great hardship because of the difficulty of obtaining any artificial limbs at all for many of the cripples. Such as could be had were of an ancient type with none of the modern improvements.<sup>4</sup>

Soon after Italy's entrance into the war there was formed at Milan a committee to establish a national factory for prostheses. The committee received the support of the army medical authorities and of the Minister of War and had capital contributed from all parts of the country. A representative was sent to England and France to study the best forms of prostheses. The factory was then started under a committee of experts, its object being to manufacture artificial limbs and sell them to the government at cost and to study and perfect their manufacture.<sup>5</sup>

Since even this national factory cannot supply all the limbs for the whole country, various other shops have sprung up. Re-education schools are all obliged by law to have a shop for repairs and many of them manufacture all their own prostheses. There are also private firms which furnish limbs on specifications from the War Department. The criticism now made is that whereas at first men had to wait unduly long for their prostheses these are now furnished so soon that the stump has not time to heal properly.

No standard type of limb has yet been decided upon, but the government in March, 1917, appointed a Commission to study the matter and lay down rules.<sup>6</sup> This commission has not yet reported.

<sup>4</sup> Comitato Lombardo per i Soldati Mutilati in Guerra. Milano. *Milano e la Lombardia per i soldati mutilati in guerra. Relazione* . . . March, 1917, 37-38.

<sup>5</sup> Comitato Lombardo per i Soldati Mutilati in Guerra. Milano. *Milano e la Lombardia per i soldati mutilati in guerra. Relazione* . . . March, 1917, 40.

<sup>6</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 107.

At present the types used are various. As mentioned above, the government agrees only to furnish aesthetic limbs which are generally of an old-fashioned and useless type. There is much propaganda among doctors and school directors as to the value of the simple and inexpensive work prosthesis which is really more durable and useful than the aesthetic limb. The new Italian inventions advocated are all of this type.

1. *Paoletti Leg.* Made and used at the Florence school. This is a jointed steel skeleton. The upper part consists of two horizontal steel-wire rings a foot or so apart into the upper one of which the stump fits. There is an aluminum sphere at the knee with an axis connecting with the lower leg which consists of a steel rod replaceable by a wooden aesthetic leg.<sup>7</sup>

2. *Zumaglini Leg.* This is a simple wooden leg with a ball and socket joint, fixable in extended position. A calf and foot can be adjusted over it for dress purposes.<sup>8</sup>

3. *Putti Leg* (for transition stage). This is also an artificial peg leg, the wooden frame into which the stump fits being triangular rather than round and adjustable to suit the size of the changing stump.<sup>9</sup>

4. *Zumaglini Foot.* A wooden foot in two pieces with a ball and socket joint, upper and lower piece joined by upright steel band. The wooden pieces move easily on one another when walking and the foot can be bent in any direction, even laterally.<sup>10</sup>

5. *Hoefmann Arm* (for upper arm amputations). This is a long leather cuff fitting over the stump and attached to a canvas harness laced around the chest. At the end of the leather cuff is a flat plate into which appliances or a dress arm may be screwed.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 262-263.

<sup>8</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 13-15.

<sup>9</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 283.

<sup>10</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 295-296.

<sup>11</sup> Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati. Rome, 1917, ii, 2-3.

6. *Zumaglioni Arm.* This is a steel claw fitted with a spring so that it can be fixed in any position. It is to be attached to a flat plate like on the Hoefmann arm, above.<sup>12</sup>

Paolo Bottari, of the Turin Agricultural School, recommends that men should use the stump in every way possible. His method for arm amputation cases is to teach the remaining hand to do the skilled work and supplement it by long-handled tools attached to a ring at the waist or shoulder instead of the other arm. He also feels that each cripple can best invent his own prosthesis.<sup>13</sup>

Very little has been done in the matter of appliances to help the work of cripples. Several inventions are suggested to hold a shoe for shoemakers who cannot use the knee,<sup>14</sup> and a little has been done toward altering simple farm tools.<sup>15</sup>

An exhibition of artificial limbs was held at Bologna in March, 1917, under the auspices of the Ministers, the Federation, and the Red Cross at which prizes were awarded for the most useful ones.<sup>16</sup>

The *Comitato Regionale di Mobilitazione Industriale per la Lombardia* (Local Committee on Industrial Mobilization for Lombardy) has arranged a contest to be held at Milan under the patronage of the Ministry of Munitions for the exhibition of mechanical aids to work for cripples. The object is to facilitate the work of men with arm amputations at mechanical employment.<sup>17</sup>

#### IV. Re-education

Re-education constitutes a special problem in Italy, because such a large proportion (eighty

<sup>12</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 291-293.

<sup>13</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 318-320.

<sup>14</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 32-34.

<sup>15</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Scorpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 318-320.

<sup>16</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 98.

<sup>17</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 185.

per cent.) of the men to be re-educated are peasants with no background of experience in any trade and very often illiterate. The result is that the re-education schools must include a much longer elementary school course than is necessary in other countries and that the trades taught cannot be so advanced and specialized. The general plan of the schools has much more in common with that of a regular public school for children than is the case in Germany, for instance, where discipline is not military and the trades taught are suited to mature and experienced men.

The whole character of an Italian school is formal and institutional, as it must be in order to impress the primitive mind with which it has to deal. The schools are institutional in appearance, since there is generally a convent, a palace or some impressive public building which can be donated to the committee for the purpose. Most of the men reside in the school under military discipline, though day pupils are taken if they reside in the town and wish to return to their homes at night. The hours of work, recreation and leave off bounds are all carefully regulated and stated by the school in its report to the Minister of War, as is also the number of meals furnished to the men and the kind of food. The plan of work is thoroughly formal. Almost all the men are required to take an intermediate and sometimes an elementary school course before beginning a trade. At the conclusion of each course they are graduated with proper ceremonies and given a diploma before being promoted to the next. On being graduated from the school they receive a certificate stating their fitness to follow a trade and support themselves and generally prizes from the committee and the chief citizens of the town. It is found that this sort of ceremony is a decided help in keeping up the men's interest and pride in their work.

This chance at an all-round education, even though compressed into a six-month period, is a real opportunity for the illiterate agricultural laborers of southern Italy. It means an amount of mental discipline and a general background of information which is unknown in the small hamlets from which they come. Many of these hamlets are so remote and primitive that the

feeling of national unity has not really penetrated to them, and the promoters of the schools feel that, aside from special help to cripples, they are of real use in national development.

#### LOCAL COMMITTEES

Each school is under the direction of a volunteer local committee, called a *Comitato di Assistenza*, which must work in close touch with the National Board. The work of this committee includes founding the school and arousing public interest in it, attending to the practical direction with help in discipline from the War Department, raising funds to aid in its support, since the 3.50 lire a day paid for each man by the government does not cover expenses, and placing the men when they leave. This means that a great deal is still expected of private initiative. The National Board is, of course, expected to be of great support to the committees and to stimulate their formation in the still large areas where none exist.

To November, 1917, there were twenty-six committees, at Alessandria, Ancona, Bari, Bologna, two at Florence, Genoa, Lecce, Leghorn, Milan, Modena, Naples, Padua, Palermo, Parma, Pavia, Perugia, Pescia, Pisa, Ravenna, Rome, Spezia, Turin, Venice, Verona, Voghera.<sup>1</sup> Distributed by provinces, this makes: Piedmont, two; Lombardy, three; Venetia, three; Liguria, two; Emilia, three; Tuscany, four; Marches, one; Rome, two; Perugia, one; Umbria, one; Abruzzi, none; Campania, one; Basilicata, none; Apulia, two; Calabria, none; Sicily, one. It will be seen that the committees become much fewer as we go toward the south, which begins with the province of Abruzzi. Three of the southern provinces have no committees at all. The organization of the whole country is still in process. The National Board expects greatly to stimulate the formation of committees in localities where public opinion is slow. It is empowered to call on the mayors of towns or to send out its own representatives where no one else takes the initiative.

Not all the committees reported above have schools in operation, though that is the ultimate

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 297.

object of all of them. At the Inter-Allied Conference, May 8, 1917, the schools reported by Italy were twenty-one: including two Red Cross schools and a farm institute at Perugia. The schools are at Rome (two), Perugia, Naples, Palermo, Florence, Leghorn, Pisa, Pescia, Spezia, Bologna, Genoa, Parma, Turin, Milan, Venice, Verona, Vincenza, Treviso, Udine, Padua (the last five allied with Venice).<sup>2</sup>

The schools are not all of equal importance, some of them being very new and incompletely equipped. The five mentioned by Professor Levi in the *Bolletino* as being the largest are those at Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, and Palermo.<sup>3</sup> All these five institutions include an orthopedic hospital under the same direction as the re-education school and men proceed in a regular course from one to the other. The hospital on the Quirinal at Rome, under the personal patronage of Queen Elena, the Red Cross institution, *Istituto Romiti* at Spezia, and the Turin school under the Piedmontese committee all have the same arrangement. Some of the smaller schools have no orthopedic department but merely take men for re-education after their treatment at the orthopedic hospital has been completed. The Milan school is the most extensive as well as the oldest. It is the type toward which all the others are developing and may be described here as a model.

#### MILAN SCHOOL

The institution accommodates altogether 1,210. It is divided into four sections, a distribution station, accommodating 400; an orthopedic hospital, for 60; an elementary and business school, 150; and a trade school, 500. The first three are in the city of Milan, the trade school is in the suburb of Gorla.

Men are received from the field hospitals at the distribution station which ranks as part of the orthopedic military reserve hospital. Here they have the necessary surgical treatment and are sorted out, those belonging to other districts

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 131-133.

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 112.

being sent to their own army corps, those who need intensive orthopedic treatment to the orthopedic section and those ready for re-education to one or other of the school sections. Men are supplied here with temporary prostheses and return for their permanent ones. The orthopedic hospital is housed in a section of the *Istituto dei Rachitici* (Institute for Rachitics). It is furnished with elaborate modern devices for mecano-therapy and with Amar's apparatus for measuring muscular efficiency. The men are kept here for medico-mechanical treatment and for functional re-education.

The elementary and business schools are housed in the Marcelline convent next door to the Institute for Rachitics, the Marcelline sisters giving their services for the care of the house and food. All men who wish to take training are sent first to the elementary school unless they can prove that they have a satisfactory elementary education. The elementary school comprises four courses, of two months each, corresponding to the first four grades in night school. Each course, taking a man's full time, is expected to cover as much ground as a year's course in night school. On entering the elementary school men are carefully examined by the teacher and assigned to the course which they are fitted to take. They are then promoted in regular order until they have finished the fourth grade and are ready for trade or business training. Re-education in this school is not strictly subsequent to orthopedic treatment, since most men get through with the first two courses while they are waiting at the distribution station for their prostheses.<sup>4</sup> After a man has finished the elementary courses it is decided whether he is fitted for a trade or for the business course and he is sent accordingly to the trade school at Gorla or to the business school in the same building. The business school, for purposes of convenience, is held in the same building as the elementary school. It consists of four courses. The first is a general cultural course including Italian, arithmetic, writing, geography, and French. From it men are graduated to the business course proper

<sup>4</sup> *Comitato Lombardo per i Soldati Mutilati in Guerra*. Milano. *Milano e la Lombardia per i soldati mutilati in guerra. Relazione* . . . March, 1917, 20.

which carries the cultural course further and takes up bookkeeping and stenography. Men unfitted for further education are sent from it to such simple business positions as concierge, store clerk, etc. Men capable of going further are promoted to the commercial course which teaches bookkeeping, stenography, business letter writing, geography and Italian. There is also a course for postal and telegraph employees, these functions being both under the government in Italy. Men supplement their work in this course by practice in the government school of telegraphy in Milan.

The trade school is situated in the suburbs of Milan. It has become so popular that it has had to be twice enlarged and now accommodates 500. It is equipped with Amar testing machines to help in deciding a man's capacity for a trade and with ten workshops. These teach carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking, basketry, leather work, wood inlay and wood carving, the making of wooden shoes, saddlery, broom and brush making, mechanics. Diplomas in these subjects are given to pupils after an examination by experts.<sup>5</sup>

The *Officina Nazionale di Protesi* (National Workshop for Prostheses), mentioned above, is attached to this school though it furnishes the prostheses not only for the school, but for other Italian institutions.

The trade courses taught at Milan are in general those of the other institutions. Italy is particularly fortunate in having a great many famous handicrafts which still fetch high pay and are well adapted to cripples. Many schools, for instance, have a course in bookbinding, which has reached great artistic perfection in Italy. Florence is famed for its manufacture of toys and Venice teaches the old Venetian arts of wrought iron and stamped leather.<sup>6</sup> For men with some education the most popular course is telegraphy. The Minister of Post and Telegraph is particularly interested in re-education and has promised to do everything possible toward placing crip-

<sup>5</sup> *Comitato Lombardo per i Soldati Mutilati in Guerra*. Milano. *Milano e la Lombardia per i soldati mutilati in guerra. Relazione* . . . March, 1917, 35.

<sup>6</sup> *Scarpellon, Giuseppe*. *Per l'assistenza ai mutilati in guerra. L'Opera del Comitato Provinciale di Venezia*, p. 8.

ples. Most of the reports of school graduations mention four telegraphers to one manual worker. School directors have had to warn strenuously against too much enthusiasm in this particular line for which many men are not fitted and where they cannot all be accommodated.

#### AGRICULTURE

The subject which in Italy requires the most earnest attention and which is only beginning to be considered is agriculture. Eighty per cent. of the whole population, ninety per cent. in Sicily, come from agricultural occupations. Critics of the re-educational work have pointed out that the system of trade education which was started by Milan, an industrial center, is of no value or of positive harm to the southern districts where there is only the most primitive form of industry. The trades of tailoring or shoemaking can be used to a certain extent, but even these are not greatly in demand in simple villages where the population goes barefoot and rarely affords new clothes. On the other hand, there is the most crying need for better agricultural methods and wider education among the peasants. The present is a real opportunity for breaking down some of that ancient peasant conservatism which has kept the farming methods of much of the country in a mediæval condition and prevented it from reaching its highest productiveness.

This is beginning to be realized by a few of the schools and there is an ardent propaganda to spread the idea further. At present there are agricultural courses in only five schools, Perugia, Palermo, Spezia, Turin, and Padua. Spezia has a garden course run in connection with the regular trade courses. Perugia and Padua are small schools particularly for farm work. At Turin and Palermo there is a special section of the school in a separate building devoted to scientific agricultural course.<sup>7</sup> Palermo was the pioneer in this line and is the school which has excited the most notice and commendation.

#### PALERMO SCHOOL

The Palermo school has a hospital section in the city of Palermo for orthopedic treatment and

<sup>7</sup> *Bollettino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Soldati Ciechi, Mutilati, Storpi.* Rome, 1917, ii, 131-133.

re-education and a trade school in the suburbs with twelve shops, accommodating 250. At this trade school there was a small amount of garden land and a farm course was started. The course grew until now eight additional hectares have been purchased. The school teaches gardening, farming, bee keeping, poultry raising, and basketry, the last to furnish a little additional income for peasant farmers during their idle months. The main value of this course has been in introducing modern agricultural methods, the use of machinery, the prevention of pests, the knowledge of new crops, among very conservative and ignorant peasants. The school garden, where many new vegetables unknown to the island are grown, is an exhibition place visited by the farmers for miles around. The school tomatoes were kept free from *Phytophthora infestans* in a year when all the others in the district suffered. This makes excellent propaganda for the school and means a great educational advantage to Sicily.<sup>8</sup>

On account of its good work the Palermo school has been voted a subsidy of 50,000 lire by the *Federazione* and later a second one of 75,000. The *Camera Agrumeria*, Chamber of Agriculture, of Messina has also voted it a subsidy.<sup>9</sup>

The Federation was so impressed with the demonstration made by Palermo of the usefulness of agricultural instruction for cripples that it voted a subsidy of 50,000 lire to any other school which would establish<sup>10</sup> an adequate agricultural course. The Turin school is also doing excellent work through the *Istituto Bonafous*, an agricultural school outside Turin where farm pupils are sent at the school's expense. The subject is arousing more and more enthusiasm and it is hoped that the trend of re-education will now set away from the ill-advised teaching of trades and include more and more farm courses.

<sup>8</sup> *Bollettino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 165-175.

<sup>9</sup> *Bollettino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 242.

<sup>10</sup> *Bollettino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati.* Rome, 1917, ii, 187.

## V. Placement

The question of securing positions for crippled soldiers is one which is only beginning to be systematized. The early reports of the committees of assistance always mentioned placement as one of the functions of the committee, but there were no actual arrangements for carrying it out. When the schools were first established the only trades taught were the simple ones of tailor, shoemaker, etc., which a peasant could carry on in his own house at home. Men were sent back to their home villages, sometimes supplied with tools by the committee and expected to set up in business for themselves. With the duration of the war there has been more discussion on this subject, and it is realized that the problem of maintaining the stability of industry is a very serious one and one which the schools should study scientifically.

There is no set rule, as there is in Germany, that a man should be re-educated to his old trade or an allied one. If this were actually carried out, almost all the cripples would be educated as farmers. The statement made in the law creating the National Board, a statement expressive of theory rather than practice is: "Men should be educated preferably to their old occupation, agricultural or industrial, or to a new one suited to their tastes and to their social and economic condition and to the labor conditions of the locality where they reside."<sup>1</sup>

Italian critics of the work have pointed out that this ideal has so far not been carried out and that schools have taught the two or three trades easiest to install without regard to the demand for them or their suitability to the cripples' tastes.<sup>2</sup>

### NATIONAL FEDERATION

The National Federation had almost from the first an employment office whose function was to assist the committees in placing their discharged pupils. This office made inquiry among large firms in the country as to their willingness and

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 67.

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 225.

ability to employ cripples and was able to publish in its monthly magazine the names of several, notably the *Associazione Elettrotecnica* (Electro-Technical Association), with the positions which they can offer to cripples and the injuries compatible with them.<sup>3</sup>

Others taking cripples at the request of the National Federation are the *Società italiana per la fabbricazione di prodotti azotati di Piano d'Orte* (Italian Society for the manufacture of Nitrogen-Products at Piano d'Orte), the Firm of Solvay and Co., at Rosignano,<sup>4</sup> and the *Stabilimento Aeronautico di Roma* (Aeronautical Factory at Rome).<sup>5</sup>

The employment office of the National Federation keeps up a continual campaign of publicity to interest public officers and private employers in the subject of employment of cripples.

### LOCAL COMMITTEES

In addition to this, almost all the local committees have developed employment bureaus. Those at Florence and Turin are particularly active. The employment committee at Florence, composed of doctors and employment experts interviews all men before they leave the hospital and makes out a card containing the necessary social information, after which it makes an effort to get them really appropriate work.<sup>6</sup> The Turin school has within the building an employment office for crippled soldiers in charge of an expert and also uses a carefully worked out blank in taking applications.<sup>7</sup>

There have also been organized in many of the Italian provinces volunteer *Comitati di Mobilitazione Industriale* (Committees for Industrial Mobilization) under a Central National Com-

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 246.

<sup>4</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 39.

<sup>5</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 163.

<sup>6</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 144-145.

<sup>7</sup> *Comitato delle Provincie Piemontese per l'Assistenza ai Lavoratori Mutilati in Guerra*. Torino. *Relazione* . . . p. 12, and blank *Collocamento Mutilati*.



mittee. This committee makes it its particular business to look up the firms which will employ cripples and publish the results.<sup>8</sup> The local committee for Lombardy publishes a tabularized statement every month in the monthly magazine of the Federation<sup>9</sup> and the National Committee also has a report.<sup>10</sup>

#### GOVERNMENT MEASURES

The agency to which all the others look for help in the matter of placement is, of course, the state. As stated above, the law creating the Federal Board requires all public offices and private firms to re-instate their former employees who have become war cripples and makes certain provisions for facilitating civil service to war cripples. This is, of course, a recent enactment which had not properly been put into effect, but even before it government bodies were very active in procuring employment for war cripples.

Italy had, perhaps, more difficulty than other countries in combating the usual conviction of the war cripple that he was entitled to a government post. She was situated something like the United States, having had a popular war at about the same time (1861), after which the principle of liberal treatment and government jobs for pensioners became well established. Many of the heroes of the war of the *Risorgimento* were supplied with sinecure posts which they were unfitted to fill and the general presupposition at the beginning of the present war was that all veterans must be treated in the same way. The Minister of Post and Telegraph was very cooperative from the first and promised to employ as many of the school graduates as possible,<sup>11</sup> but it was recognized that this offer must be used in moderation since so many of the cripples are illiterate and incapable of training as telegraphers. Men are still being educated in

large numbers for this occupation<sup>12</sup> and the requirements have been lowered for war cripples, but there is an effort to turn the schools to other lines of training.

There are also material changes in the civil service rulings in order to accommodate cripples. There is annexed to the vice-royal decree of August, 1917, supplementing the law creating the National Board, a list of positions in all governmental departments which will be held open for cripples.<sup>13</sup>

The sale of salt and tobacco is in Italy a government monopoly. It is generally conducted by the postmaster, but licenses may be given to private individuals. There is a *Commissione centrale per il conferimento delle rivendite di generi di privativa* (Central Commission for conferring the right of sale of state monopolies) which confers this license on cripples if they present proper references and are pronounced by a competent authority unfit for productive labor.<sup>14</sup>

The Ministry of Munitions has for some time been urging the munitions factories to employ cripples as a patriotic duty and has finally requested them to submit to him on the 25th of each month a list of the positions open in all factories and the injuries compatible with them.<sup>15</sup>

The law creating the National Board also provides that discharged men may be employed in army work behind the lines. The Military Aviation Department has promised to give preference to cripples, preferably trained smiths, mechanics, metal workers, carpenters, etc., to substitute for able-bodied men who may then be sent to the front. The pay is to be without regard to pension.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 245.

<sup>13</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 211-213.

<sup>14</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 120.

<sup>15</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 120, 303.

<sup>16</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 119.

<sup>8</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 332.

<sup>9</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 334.

<sup>10</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 335.

<sup>11</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 245.

## WAGES OF CRIPPLES

The question of reduction of wages caused by the employment of cripples seems not to have come up. The government has repeatedly promised that pensions shall not be reduced no matter what a man's earning capacity becomes,<sup>17</sup> but this is the only phase of the subject which has been mentioned in the publications.

Insurance is a subject which has roused more discussion. The provisions under this head have been stated in the law creating the National Board. The final result is that in matters of accident insurance no account is to be taken of the employment of cripples unless their number passes a certain proportion—when an agreement is to be reached with the Minister of Industry.

## CREDIT

Since Italy is not primarily an industrial country, the possibility of loans to farmers and handicraft workers assumes almost as much importance as that of placing men in trades. The law creating the National Board provides at length for this sort of aid. Loans for buying land or establishing themselves in business may be made to crippled soldiers on security of their pensions by loan institutions authorized by the state.<sup>18</sup> Every effort is made to facilitate credit to the cripple and the local committee and the National Board make it their business to assist him.

## VI. Public Relation

## PENSIONS

Italian pensions are computed according to a vice-royal decree of May 20, 1917, amplifying a law of Parliament of May 22, 1915. By this decree there are established ten categories of invalidity, and all injuries are classified as falling under one of them. A minimum pension is established for men of every rank, and this is augmented according to the category of in-

<sup>17</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 97.

<sup>18</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 210.

validity. For a private, the maximum is 1,260 lire or \$252 per year.<sup>1</sup> For total cripples falling within the first category there is a supplementary allowance of 150 lire, \$30 per year. This can be withdrawn if a man is being provided for by private charity or if he refuses re-education and withdrawal is recommended by the National Board.<sup>2</sup> On a man's discharge from the army, pensions are fixed once for all and the Minister of the Interior has declared definitely that there will be no diminution of pensions under any circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

## PUBLICITY

The subject of re-education is still in great need of publicity in Italy. Professor Levi, in the monthly magazine of the Federation, states that, for the first years of the war, the rule was, the cripples were discharged to their homes without knowing anything about re-education. In a short personal survey which he made in Piedmont, the sphere of activity of one of the most efficient committees, he found men in all the mountain villages who were perfectly capable of re-education and were living in idleness for lack of it.<sup>4</sup>

## FEDERATION

This lack is being overcome little by little. The National Federation, in its money-raising campaigns, has done a great deal to advertise the work of the committees. A great many post cards have been printed for sale. Its largest returns, however, came from the sale of a box of matches decorated with the Italian colors and named the *Scatola Italianissima*, a superlative which might be translated the 'All-Italian match box'. This box was manufactured by several regular factories and sold at a price a little above

<sup>1</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 152-158.

<sup>2</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 153.

<sup>3</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 37.

<sup>4</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 106.

the usual one, the surplus going to the work for cripples. A campaign of publicity made it a public duty to buy matches in this form and the box was sold by thousands, carrying with it a widespread knowledge of the name of the Federation, if not of its work. The real work of publicity done by the Federation is the publication of a monthly magazine of high excellence, the *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati* (Bulletin of the National Federation of Committees of Assistance to Blind, Lame and Maimed Soldiers), Rome. This magazine has done a great deal for the information of the educated classes of Italy. It was highly praised at the Inter-Allied conference, the French representatives declaring that it should serve as a model for their contemplated publication. Besides theoretic discussion and reports of the work of local committees, the *Bolletino* publishes lists of positions open to cripples and acts as an employment medium.

#### LOCAL COMMITTEES

The only one of the local committees which has made much of a point of publicity is the Piedmontese Committee at Turin. This committee has issued posters urging men to attend the farm school and a booklet for cripples telling the story of re-education (*Tre Anni Dopo*, Turin, 1916). It has also sent representatives through the province to lecture and interest local people.<sup>5</sup>

#### RED CROSS

The Italian Red Cross has assisted a great deal in publicity. It has included in its nursing course a series of lectures on the care of cripples, including the care of the stump and re-education.<sup>6</sup> It has also instructed its representatives whenever they visit hospitals or confer with soldiers to inform them about the possibility of re-education and the fact that it does not mean loss of pension.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 325.

<sup>6</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 161.

<sup>7</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 72-73.

The newly created National Board, with its greater powers, will probably be able to remedy this lack of popular information on the subject.

#### ATTITUDE OF CRIPPLES

It has been hard to convince the Italian cripples of the value of re-education. At Bologna, twenty-eight per cent. of the men eligible refused it.<sup>8</sup> The conservative peasant mind is hard to appeal to. The best method would seem to be that of Dr. Aliotta of Palermo, who approached his men while they were still in hospital and convinced them by long personal conferences in dialect that they would be in friendly surroundings and would enjoy the school. When they are in school, military discipline is agreed to be the only plan workable.<sup>9</sup> Even thus men are sometimes expelled for infringement of rules, at Bologna, twelve in a year.<sup>10</sup> The idea of re-education is too new for men to be willing to stick to it the length of time necessary without some external authority.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

In Italy, as in Germany, the cripples have formed a society of their own, the *Associazione Nazionale degli Invalidi della Guerra* (National Association of War Cripples) with headquarters at Milan. The aims of the association are stated to be

1. To foster the spirit of brotherhood.
2. To give mutual assistance, moral and material.
3. To act as intermediary between cripples and employers.
4. To maintain the rights of cripples when they are neglected, whether by the government or by the public.
5. To secure work for its members.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 115.

<sup>9</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 57.

<sup>10</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 115.

<sup>11</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 161.

This society would not seem to be a working class organization, as in Germany. Its honorary officers have high army rank and even the actual executives include captains, etc. The association has evidently real influence with the public. When the bill creating the National Board was being discussed, a clause providing for representatives of the cripples on the Board was struck out, but later when the supplementary rules were issued in a vice-royal decree, the Prime Minister was directed to appoint four such representatives. Cripples are also to be represented on the staffs of all the re-education schools, the men being elected by the local branch of the National Association of War Cripples.

There would seem to be already a good many branches of the association which are active in promoting propaganda for the employment of war cripples. The Genoa branch has proposed to the Ministry of War that cripples be employed in all war department positions possible so as to release able-bodied men for the front.<sup>12</sup>

The aims of the association as far as expressed are absolutely non-political. At its meeting of organization the secretary summed up the general feeling: "Our country will be grateful for the strength we have given in defense of her glory and of her spirit. But we shall be even more worthy of her if, united in a firm organization, we regain the strength and the will to be real men, useful to ourselves and to our families. The eyes of all are turned toward us as toward the elect, and this high consideration should guide us to right conduct and straight living. The association will be the kindly guardian of every member, but it will not hesitate to take stern but necessary measures against those who fail of their civic duty."<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 330.

<sup>13</sup> *Bolletino della Federazione Nazionale dei Comitati di Assistenza ai Militari Ciechi, Storpi, Mutilati*. Rome, 1917, ii, 218.



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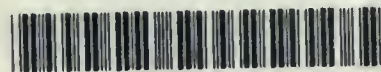
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